

U.S. Immigration Policy: Current Challenges in Eastern Europe and Armenia

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Abstract:

U.S. immigration policy has undergone significant transformation in recent years, reflecting global challenges related to mobility, security, labor markets, and humanitarian protection. These changes are particularly salient for Eastern Europe and the Republic of Armenia, where migration is shaped by historical legacies, post-socialist transitions, economic inequalities, and strong diasporic ties. This article examines contemporary U.S. immigration policy with a focus on legal migration pathways, asylum and refugee restrictions, and intensified enforcement measures under the second administration of President Donald Trump. Adopting an intercultural and humanistic perspective, the study analyzes the implications of these policies for Armenian and Eastern European diasporas, especially regarding family reunification, cultural transmission, and transnational belonging. Through a comparative lens that contrasts U.S. approaches with European migration frameworks, the article highlights the broader cultural, social, and geopolitical consequences of increasingly restrictive immigration governance for transatlantic relations and regional development. The analysis contributes to ongoing debates on migration policy, diaspora sustainability, and integration in pluralistic societies.

Keywords: *U.S. immigration policy; Trump administration; asylum and refugees; Armenian diaspora; cultural integration; Eastern Europe; migration governance*

ՀԱՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ԱԼԵՔՍԱՆՅԱՆ

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ԱՄՆ-Ի ՆԵՐԳԱՂԹԱՅԻՆ ՔԱՂԱՔԱԿԱՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ. ԱՐԴԻ ՄԱՐՏԱՀՐԱՎԵՐՆԵՐԸ ԱՐԵՎԵԼՅԱՆ ԵՎՐՈՊԱՅՈՒՄ ԵՎ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆՈՒՄ

Ամփոփում

ԱՄՆ ներգաղթային քաղաքականության վերջին խստացումները ձևավորել են նոր իրողություն, որում սահմանափակումները ու խստացված հսկողությունն՝ գերիշխում են հաճախ ի փաստաբանական արժեքների և ինտեգրման սահուն գործընթացների: Այս փոփոխությունները էական ազդեցություն ունեն ոչ միայն միգրացիոն հոսքերի, այլև Հայաստանի և Արևելյան Եվրոպայի երկրների սփյուռքի կայունության, ընտանեկան կապերի պահպանման և մշակութային ինքնության շարունակականության վրա: Միաժամանակ, այս քաղաքականության և Եվրոմիության ավելի ճկուն և բազմաշերտ մոտեցումների համեմատությունը ցույց է տալիս, որ ներգաղթի արդյունավետ կառավարումը կարելի է զուգակցել անվտանգության ու բաց կառավարման սկզբունքների հետ: Ուստի, ապագայում նոր ներգաղթային քաղաքականությունների մշակման գործընթացներում անհափ կարևոր է հաշվի առնել ոչ միայն նրանց իրավական և անվտանգային գործոնները, այլ նաև միգրացիայի խորքային հումանիտար, մշակութային և սոցիալական հետևանքները:

Բանալի բառեր՝ ԱՄՆ ներգաղթային քաղաքականություն, Թրամփի վարչակազմ, ապաստան և փախստականներ, հայկական սփյուռք, մշակութային ինտեգրում, Արևելյան Եվրոպա, ներգաղթի կառավարում:

Introduction

In the early 2020s, U.S. immigration policy has become one of the most contested arenas of domestic and international debate, influencing not only geopolitical relationships but also cultural identities, diasporic imaginaries, and cross-cultural integration. While immigration policy is often discussed primarily through the lenses of security, border control, and economic utility, its cultural and human consequences reverberate deeply across sending

societies, especially in regions such as Eastern Europe and the Republic of Armenia. Migration policies shape not only who is able to move, but also how families remain connected, how languages are transmitted across generations, and how diasporic identities are sustained or disrupted.

Armenia's historical experiences of migration, displacement, and cultural survival are closely entwined with contemporary policy shifts in the United States, which continues to play a central role in global migration governance¹. The presence of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians in the United States has created one of the most institutionally developed and culturally active diasporas in the world. Armenian churches, schools, media outlets, literary circles, and advocacy organizations have long functioned as bridges between homeland and diaspora, fostering a transnational cultural space that transcends borders.

This article examines current challenges in U.S. immigration policy with particular attention to administrative changes under President Donald Trump's second administration (2025–present). It situates legal and enforcement shifts within broader cultural, political, and human processes, emphasizing their implications for Armenia and Eastern European societies. By adopting an interdisciplinary approach that integrates policy analysis with cultural and diasporic perspectives, the article highlights how immigration governance affects identity formation, family networks, linguistic continuity, and diaspora engagement.

1 K. TÖLÖLYAN, «Rethinking Diaspora(s): Stateless Power in the Transnational Moment», *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*, vol. 5, n. 1, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1996, pp. 3–36; ID., «The Contemporary Discourse of Diaspora Studies», *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, vol. 27, n. 3, Duke University Press, Durham, 2007, pp. 647–655.

U.S. Immigration Policy in Flux: Key Trends

Reorientation Toward Enforcement and Restriction

In the United States, asylum claims reached historic levels prior to recent policy tightening, with nearly 945,370 applications submitted in FY 2023, representing an 88 % increase over the previous year.² At the same time, mounting backlogs of pending asylum cases exceeded one million by 2024, creating legal uncertainty for applicants regardless of origin³.

Since January 2025, U.S. immigration policy has undergone a pronounced reorientation toward enforcement, deterrence, and restriction. Through a combination of executive orders, regulatory reforms, and legislative initiatives, the Trump administration has prioritized border security and interior enforcement as central pillars of governance.

One of the most consequential measures has been the expansion of expedited removal procedures, allowing immigration authorities to deport certain non-citizens without full court hearings. This mechanism significantly limits access to legal representation and judicial review, raising concerns regarding due process and constitutional protections.

Executive Order no. 14159, titled «Protecting the American People Against Invasion», formalized this enforcement-driven approach by broadening the scope of expedited removal and increasing penalties for unauthorized presence⁴. The order also introduced financial consequences for so-called “sanctuary jurisdictions”, wi-

2 USA FACTS, Asylum in the United States: How Case Backlog Grew Hundreds of Thousands, USAFacts Institute, Washington, 2024.

3 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, Immigration Statistics Yearbook 2024, DHS Office of Immigration Statistics, Washington, 2024.

4 Executive Order no. 14159, «Protecting the American People Against Invasion», Federal Register, Washington, 2025. Register 90, no. 18 (January 29, 2025): pp. 8443–8448

thholding federal funds from states and municipalities that limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities. Critics argue that such measures strain federal–local relations and disproportionately affect immigrant-heavy urban communities.

Complementing these actions, the **Laken Riley Act** (2025) mandates detention without bond for certain categories of non-citizens charged with criminal offenses, including non-violent and minor crimes.⁵ While proponents frame the law as a public safety measure, legal scholars warn that it contributes to the criminalization of non-citizen status and expands the use of prolonged detention. Together, these initiatives reflect a policy posture that prioritizes deterrence over integration and enforcement over inclusion.

In 2025 President Trump suspended the annual Green Card (Diversity Visa) lottery, the program that typically issues about 50,000 diversity visas each year to people from countries with low U.S. immigration rates⁶. This pause was justified by DHS on “security concerns.” The administration has directed U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to **re-examine Green Cards held by people from certain “countries of concern.”** This includes about 19 countries previously targeted by travel bans and immigration pauses (e.g., Afghanistan, Cuba, Iran, Somalia, Venezuela). The goal, according to officials, is enhanced national security screening.

In January 2026, the U.S. Department of State announced an indefinite pause on issuing immigrant visas (consular processing for green cards) for nationals of 75 countries, including many from

5 Laken Riley Act, Public Law (2025), United States Congress, Washington, Pub. L. 119-1, 139 Stat. 3.

6 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, *Annual Diversity Visa Program Report*, DHS, Washington, 2025.

Africa, the Middle East, and Asia⁷. Armenia and similar states were explicitly listed in this framework. According to State Department communications, the pause is intended to allow a review of “public charge” determinations — assessments of whether incoming immigrants are likely to become dependent on public benefits.

Humanitarian Protections, Asylum, and Refugee Limits

Humanitarian pathways have contracted sharply under the current administration, marking a departure from long-standing U.S. engagement with international refugee protection norms.⁸ The suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) represents a significant departure from decades of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement as a cornerstone of U.S. humanitarian leadership. Refugee admissions ceilings have been lowered, resettlement flights halted, and partnerships with international organizations scaled back. As of fiscal year 2024, more than 1.3 million asylum applications were pending before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, while nearly 1.5 million additional cases remained pending in immigration courts⁹. The backlog in immigration courts exceeded 3.4 million cases by late 2025, with average waiting periods surpassing four years for asylum hearings¹⁰. Combined with increased denial rates—for example, in March 2025 immigration judges denied 76 % of decided asylum cases—these trends indicate an environment of restrictive adjudi-

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Public Charge Review Framework Announcement, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Washington, 2026.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, *US Immigration Enforcement and Human Rights Concerns*, Human Rights Watch, New York, 2025.

9 MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE, *Asylum Backlogs and Adjudication Trends in FY 2024*, MPI, Washington, 2025.

10 THE WORLD DATA, *US Immigration Court Backlog Statistics 2025*, TheWorldData.com, 2025.

cation¹¹. The backlog in immigration courts exceeded 3.4 million cases by late 2025, with average wait times surpassing four years for asylum hearings. These procedural barriers place significant legal and psychological strain on asylum seekers, who may languish in limbo for years while unable to work legally or reunite with family members.

Similarly, the dismantling of regional parole initiatives, including the Cuba–Haiti–Nicaragua–Venezuela (CHNV) program, reflects a retreat from structured migration frameworks designed to channel mobility through regulated pathways.¹² These programs previously aimed to reduce irregular migration by providing legal entry pathways, yet their suspension has increased uncertainty and vulnerability among potential migrants.

Asylum policy has also been reshaped through regulatory measures that echo earlier pandemic-era restrictions. New administrative rules authorize the denial of asylum claims on public health grounds, reviving executive discretion reminiscent of Title 42 expulsions. Although framed as protective public health measures, such policies have been criticized for undermining international refugee law and the principle of non-refoulement¹³.

Legal Migration Pathways and Visa Reform

Beyond enforcement and humanitarian restrictions, the administration's agenda has also reshaped legal immigration pathways. Stricter visa interview requirements have been reinstated, redu-

11 VISAVERGE, «Asylum Denial Rates Rise in 2025», VisaVerge, 2025

12 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, *Parole Process for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans: Policy Update*, DHS, Washington, 2025. 90 Fed. Reg. 13611–13622 (Mar. 25, 2025).

13 HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, *US Immigration Enforcement and Human Rights Concerns*, cit.

cing eligibility for interview waivers and lengthening processing times for family-based and employment-based visas.¹⁴ These administrative barriers create additional uncertainty for migrants who seek to enter the United States through lawful channels.

At the same time, new selective pathways have emerged, such as the proposed “**Trump Gold Card,**” which offers expedited immigrant visas in exchange for substantial financial investment.¹⁵ This initiative reflects a market-oriented approach to migration policy, privileging capital mobility over family reunification and humanitarian need. Scholars have long observed the growing commodification of migration regimes in the context of globalization and neoliberal restructuring¹⁶.

Parallel restrictions on employment authorization—such as shortening the validity period of work permits for refugees and asylees—further illustrate a strategy of intensified vetting and bureaucratic control¹⁷. These measures complicate long-term integration prospects by limiting labor market stability and economic self-sufficiency among protected populations.

Collectively, these developments narrow legal avenues for migration while reinforcing enforcement priorities. The cumulative effect is the production of a policy environment that discourages both unauthorized and lawful mobility, reshaping migration incentives at a structural level.

14 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Visa Interview Waiver Update*, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Washington, February 18, 2025, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/interview-waiver-update-feb-18-2025.html>

15 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Visa Interview Waiver Update*, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Washington, September 18, 2025, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/interview-waiver-update-sept-18-2025.html>.

16 N. PAPASTERGIADIS, *The Turbulence of Migration: Globalization, Deterritorialization and Hybridity* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000), pp. 54–75.

17 MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE, *Employment Authorization and Integration Outcomes in the United States*, MPI, Washington, 2025. pp. 10–30.

Armenian Migration and Asylum Claims: Recent Trends

In recent years, Armenian migration to the United States has increasingly included asylum-seeking and humanitarian pathways, particularly following periods of political instability, economic hardship, and regional conflict. Armenian asylum applications rose noticeably after the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war and again following renewed security concerns in the South Caucasus¹⁸. According to official visa issuance statistics, Armenian nationals received 3,676 immigrant visas in 2023, reflecting the continued strength of migration ties between Armenia and the United States despite tightening controls¹⁹.

Evidence from migration advocacy networks suggests that Armenian nationals crossing the U.S.–Mexico border increased in the years following the 2020 conflict, as individuals sought asylum due to security concerns and economic disruption²⁰. Several asylum claims have centered on political persecution, military conscription pressures, and vulnerability following displacement, particularly among individuals originating from border regions. However, the tightening of U.S. asylum standards—combined with expanded expedited removal procedures—has resulted in higher rejection rates and prolonged legal uncertainty for Armenian applicants²¹. These developments place additional strain on Armenian-American community organizations, which frequently

18 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, *Immigration Statistics Yearbook 2023*, DHS Office of Immigration Statistics, Washington, 2023. **Table 17, "Individuals Granted Asylum Affirmatively by Region and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2014–2023"** and **Table 19, "Individuals Granted Asylum Defensively by Region and Country of Nationality: Fiscal Years 2014–2023"**.

19 SCHENGEN VISA NEWS, «EU-Region Countries Received Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Visas in 2023», SchengenVisa News, 2024.

20 HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, *US. Department of State, Report of the Visa Office 2023, Table V (Part 1)*,

21 Ibid.

provide legal assistance, housing support, and cultural mediation for newly arrived migrants.

Restrictions on family-based visas have also affected Armenian transnational families. Prolonged backlogs in family reunification cases have delayed the arrival of elderly parents and minor children, weakening intergenerational cultural transmission and intensifying emotional and economic pressures within diaspora households²². Such disruptions affect not only individual migrants but also the broader cultural continuity of Armenian diasporic life.

Eastern European Migration: Skilled Mobility and Legal Barriers

Migration from Eastern Europe to the United States has historically followed educational, employment-based, and diversity visa pathways, particularly from countries such as Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, and Romania. Highly skilled professionals, including IT specialists, engineers, and medical personnel, have used temporary work visas (H-1B, J-1) as stepping stones toward permanent residence.²³ However, recent U.S. policy changes—such as stricter visa interviews, reduced waivers, and increased administrative scrutiny—have disproportionately affected applicants from post-socialist states. Scholars note that Eastern European migrants increasingly perceive U.S. immigration governance as unpredictable and exclusionary, redirecting mobility aspirations

22 A. AVAGYAN, «Migration and National Identity in Post-Soviet Armenia», *Armenian Review*, vol. 61, n. 1, Armenian Review Press, Boston, 2019, pp. 45–67.

23 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Nonimmigrant Visa Statistics 2024, Report of the Visa Office 2024*, Table XVI (Part I), “Nonimmigrant Visas Issued, Fiscal Year 2024” (Washington, DC: Bureau of Consular Affairs, 2024), <https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/Statistics/AnnualReports/FY2024AnnualReport/Table%20XVI.pdf>

toward Canada or the European Union²⁴.

A notable case concerns Ukrainian nationals who, despite ongoing armed conflict, face limited long-term protection mechanisms in the United States compared to temporary protection instruments available within the European Union framework²⁵. The absence of durable status pathways reinforces uncertainty and weakens long-term integration prospects.

Armenian and Eastern European scholarship has further emphasized the cultural and identity-based consequences of migration, highlighting how mobility reshapes collective memory, linguistic practices, and national narratives. Migration thus operates not only as an economic strategy but also as a transformative cultural process that reconfigures belonging and transnational attachment.

Armenian and Eastern European scholarship has increasingly emphasized the cultural, literary, and identity-based consequences of migration, highlighting how mobility reshapes collective memory, language practices, and national narratives.²⁶

The Armenian Diaspora in the United States

Armenian migration to the United States is deeply rooted in historical trauma, including the Armenian Genocide, subsequent politi-

24 T. FAIST, «The Mobility Turn: A New Paradigm for the Social Sciences?», *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, vol. 36, n. 11, Routledge, London, 2013, pp. 1637–1646; S. CASTLES – H. DE HAAS – M. J. MILLER, *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2020.

25 EUROPEAN COMMISSION, *Temporary Protection Directive: Implementation Update 2024*, European Commission, Brussels, 2024, pp. 2–5.

26 H. MKRTCHYAN, «Migration, Culture, and Identity in Contemporary Armenian Literature», *Banber Yerevani Hamalsarani [Herald of Yerevan University]*, n. 2, Yerevan State University Press, Yerevan, 2017, pp. 88–101; R. BRUBAKER, «Diaspora Diasporas», *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, vol. 28, n. 1, Routledge, London, 2011, pp. 1–19.

cal upheavals, and post-Soviet economic transitions²⁷.

Over time, Armenian-American communities have developed robust institutional infrastructures that preserve cultural heritage and facilitate transnational engagement. Armenian language schools, Apostolic and Catholic churches, cultural associations, and diasporic media play a central role in sustaining collective memory and identity. Recent tightening of U.S. immigration policy, however, has tangible effects on these transnational communities. Restrictions on family reunification visas, prolonged processing times, and expanded detention practices disrupt kinship networks that are central to Armenian diasporic life. For Armenian migrants, these trends are not merely statistical: they reflect lived experiences of migration under increasingly constrained policy environments. Family-based migration has historically enabled cultural transmission and mutual support between generations; when such pathways are constrained, cultural continuity is weakened.²⁸

Heightened enforcement also generates fear and anxiety among mixed-status families, discouraging civic participation and limiting engagement with public institutions²⁹. These dynamics risk eroding trust within immigrant communities and interrupting the everyday practices—language use, religious observance, community gatherings—through which culture is reproduced.

27 K. TÖLÖLYAN, «Rethinking Diaspora(s): Stateless Power in the Transnational Moment», *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*, vol. 5, n. 1, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1996, pp. 3–36; S. KASBARIAN, *Armenians in Contemporary Europe: Diaspora, Politics and Identity*, Routledge, London, 2018.

28 M. P. SMITH – L. E. GUARNIZO, *Transnationalism from Below*, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, 1998. 316 pp.

29 HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, *US Immigration Enforcement and Human Rights Concerns*, cit.

Eastern European Migration Experiences

Across Eastern Europe, migration toward Western Europe and the United States has long been driven by a combination of economic disparities, political instability, and aspirations for cultural and professional mobility.³⁰ Countries in the post-socialist space have experienced significant population outflows, particularly among younger and highly educated cohorts. In the European context, Armenia's engagement with broader mobility frameworks illustrates divergent governance models. In September 2024, Armenia and the European Union launched a visa liberalization dialogue aimed at easing short-stay travel for Armenian citizens to the EU.³¹ This initiative reflects a commitment to managed legal mobility as a complement to security and administrative benchmarks, standing in contrast to the increasingly restrictive U.S. visa processing, where prolonged interview requirements and reduced waivers have lengthened waiting times and discouraged lawful family reunification and employment mobility.³²

In Eastern Europe more broadly, regional migration dynamics highlight the interplay between policy environments and mobility aspirations. EU data indicate that 124,000 non-EU citizens were refused entry at external borders in 2024, while hundreds of thou-

30 T. FAIST, «The Mobility Turn: A New Paradigm for the Social Sciences?», *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, vol. 36, n. 11, Routledge, London, 2013, pp. 1637–1646; S. CASTLES – H. DE HAAS – M. J. MILLER, *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2020.

31 EUROPEAN COMMISSION, *EU and Armenia Launch Visa Liberalisation Dialogue*, European Commission, Brussels, 2024, September 9, 2024

32 S. CASTLES – H. DE HAAS – M. J. MILLER, *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*, 443 pp.

sands remained irregularly present within member states.³³ Although these figures predominantly concern EU entry, they demonstrate that citizens of post-socialist states remain embedded in complex mobility systems shaped by national policy choices.³⁴ U.S. immigration policy plays an important symbolic and practical role in shaping these migration trajectories. The narrowing of asylum access and employment-based visas affects not only migration flows but also the narratives through which migration is imagined and understood. For many Eastern Europeans, migration represents a pathway to broader cultural horizons and transnational belonging; restrictive policies, by contrast, reinforce perceptions of exclusion and marginalization.³⁵

Comparative Perspective: Western Europe and the European Union

In contrast to the U.S. enforcement-centered approach, Western European countries and the European Union have pursued a more differentiated migration strategy. While the EU has strengthened external border controls and accelerated asylum procedures, it has simultaneously expanded legal mobility frameworks, particularly for neighboring Eastern Partnership countries.

Visa liberalization agreements with Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, as well as the ongoing visa liberalization dialogue with Armenia, reflect an approach that links mobility to governance reforms

33 EUROPEAN COMMISSION, European Commission/Eurostat, Enforcement of Immigration Legislation Statistics: Third-Country Nationals Refused Entry and Irregular Presence, 2024, Table 1, (Brussels: European Commission/Eurostat, 2025), https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Enforcement_of_immigration_legislation_statistics

34 T. FAIST, *The Mobility Turn*, cit.

35 H. MKRTCHYAN, «Migration, Culture, and Identity in Contemporary Armenian Literature», *Banber Yerevani Hamalsarani [Herald of Yerevan University]*, n. 2, Yerevan State University Press, Yerevan, 2017, pp. 88–101.

rather than blanket exclusion. Although asylum systems in Western Europe face significant strain, particularly in frontline states such as Greece and Italy, EU policy continues to emphasize harmonization, burden-sharing, and legal pathways for short-term mobility.

For Armenian citizens, the EU's engagement offers an alternative model of migration governance—one that combines conditional openness with regulatory oversight. This stands in contrast to U.S. policies that increasingly rely on restriction and deterrence as primary tools.

Human Dimensions and Policy Backlash

The intensification of immigration enforcement in the United States has generated significant backlash from human rights organizations, legal scholars, and segments of civil society. Reports of increased deaths in immigration detention facilities and concerns over inadequate medical care underscore the human costs of punitive policies. These outcomes have sparked ethical debates about the balance between sovereignty, security, and human dignity.

Public opinion within the United States also reflects growing ambivalence toward extreme enforcement measures, particularly where humanitarian principles and human dignity are perceived to be compromised. While border security remains a salient concern, surveys indicate rising discomfort with policies perceived as excessively harsh or incompatible with humanitarian values. These debates reveal enduring tensions between securitization and pluralism in contemporary democratic societies.

Conclusion

The evolution of U.S. immigration policy under the Trump administration illustrates a broader global tension between restrictive enforcement and the imperatives of cultural and economic integration³⁶. EU visa liberalization agreements with Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, as well as the ongoing visa liberalization dialogue with Armenia, reflect an approach that links mobility to governance reforms rather than blanket exclusion.

For Armenia and Eastern Europe, these developments carry significant implications for migration patterns, diaspora sustainability, and transnational identities. By situating legal policy within a cultural and humanistic framework, this article demonstrates that immigration governance shapes not only the movement of people but also the preservation of language, memory, and collective belonging.

Understanding these dynamics is essential for assessing the long-term consequences of contemporary immigration policies. As global mobility continues to define the twenty-first century, policy choices in destination countries such as the United States will remain central not only to migration flows but also to the cultural, economic, and social futures of sending societies and their diasporas.

36 S. CASTLES – H. DE HAAS – M. J. MILLER, *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*, 443 pp.; THOMAS FAIST, "The Mobility Turn: A New Paradigm for the Social Sciences?" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 36, no. 11 (2013): 1637–1646.

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