

Asylum and Other Forms of Immigration Protection



Seattle
Office of Immigrant
and Refugee Affairs

Northwest
IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS
Project



“Reflections on a Journey,” a mural created by refugee children in Michigan, was completed with the help of a professional artist in Lansing to commemorate World Refugee Awareness Week in 2015. Small canvas copies of the piece are on display at several art galleries in Michigan.

Asylum case questions

- Were you harmed in the past, or do you fear being harmed in the future?
- Who harmed you, and why did they specifically target you to harm?
- Is the government in your home country able or willing to protect you from harm?
- Is there anywhere else in your country where you could live safely?

Who harmed you, and why did they specifically target you to harm?



Were you harmed in the past, or do you fear being harmed in the future?



Is the government in your home country able or willing to protect you from harm?



Is there anywhere else in your country where you could live safely?



Common Bars to Asylum

One-Year Filing Deadline

Firm Resettlement

Persecution of Others

Crimes

Terrorism

Credibility



Asylum Benefits

- Indefinite status
- Work authorization
- Access to certain public benefits and refugee assistance
- Derivative status for spouse and unmarried children under 21
 - petition within 2 years of asylum grant
- Ability to travel with refugee travel document
- Adjustment of status (“green card”) after 1 year
- Path to citizenship

Withholding of Removal and Protection Under the Convention Against Torture

Only available in immigration court

No filing deadline!

Withholding of Removal

- Harm based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, membership in a particular social group

Convention Against Torture

- Torture by the government or by a person or group the government does not protect against

Benefits: Ability to stay in the U.S. and work authorization

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

- A country may be designated for TPS for ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, extraordinary and temporary conditions, etc.
- For citizens of certain countries who have been present since a specific time AND registered for TPS (or can sometimes file late).
- TPS recipients can not be removed, and are eligible for work authorization

Countries Currently Designated for TPS

Select the country link for additional specific country information.

- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Burma \(Myanmar\)](#)
- [Cameroon](#)
- [El Salvador](#)
- [Ethiopia](#)
- [Haiti](#)
- [Honduras](#)
- [Nepal](#)
- [Nicaragua](#)
- [Somalia](#)
- [South Sudan](#)
- [Sudan](#)
- [Syria](#)
- [Ukraine](#)
- [Venezuela](#)
- [Yemen](#)

Additional Forms of Protection



- VAWA Self Petition
- U-Visa
- T-Visa
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

For more immigration help
please visit nwirp.org

Northwest
IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS
Project