



GROSSMAN YOUNG & HAMMOND
TRANSCENDING BORDERS™

4922 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 200
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Afghan Refugee Resources

By, Nikki Whetstone, Esq.

Organizations:

- **International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)** – <https://refugeerights.org>
 - IRAP provides legal resources for Afghan refugees, including a series of guides detailing the eligibility requirements and application process for Humanitarian Parole, Special Immigrant Visas (SIV), and Afghan P-2 refugee program.
- **Human Rights First** - <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/>
 - Provides services for asylum-seeking clients as well as resources on ways to protect your online identity from the Taliban.
- **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)** - <https://www.lirs.org>
 - Provides assistance to refugees and SIV applicants and offers 33 resettlement offices around the country.
 - resettlement@lirs.org
- **PARS Equality Center** - <https://parsequalitycenter.org>
 - Provides immigration legal services and social services for refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers.
- **No One Left Behind** - <https://nooneleft.org>
 - Provides assistance to applicants in applying for SIV and resettlement once in the U.S.
- **Afghan Coalition** - <https://www.afghancoalition.org>
 - Provides legal assistance to those currently located in Afghanistan as well as social services to those in the U.S.

Legal Representation:

- **Free immigration legal service providers** - <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory>
- **Private immigration attorneys** - <http://www.ailalawyer.com>



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Evacuation Assistance:

- **Department of Defense (DOD) Afghan NEO Call Center**
 - Afghan.neo.amcit@mail.mil
 - 703-693-0799
- **Senator Alex Padilla** - <https://www.padilla.senate.gov/afghanistan-evacuation-resources>
- **Senator Jason Crow** - <https://crow.house.gov/afghanistan-evacuation-resources>
- **Representative Josh Harder** - <https://harder.house.gov/Afghanistan-Evacuation-Resources>
- **U.S. Department of State Task Force 3** - Afghansivapplication@state.gov
 - For those in Afghanistan with pending immigrant visa/SIV/Humanitarian Parole
- **U.S. Consulate in Kabul** - kabulacs@state.gov
- **Task Force for Consular Affairs** – ATF-TF1@groups.state.gov
 - Provides services to U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents in Afghanistan
- **Chartered or commercial flights out of HKIA Airport** - 621AMOS.MOG.AMC@us.af.mil
- **U.S. Government contact for those seeking P-2 refugee status** - USRAPAfghanInquiries@state.gov
- **Senator Tom Cotton** - evac@cotton.senate.gov
 - Provides assistance to those seeking Humanitarian Parole
- **Representative Andy Kim** - RepKimEvac@mail.house.gov
- **Assistance for Afghan Women and Girls** - [SGWI AfghanReferrals@state.gov](mailto:SGWI_AfghanReferrals@state.gov)
- **Kabul Repatriation Assistance** - <https://seirmprod.servicenow.com/kra>
 - Provides services for U.S. Citizens who require assistance returning to the U.S.

Potential Humanitarian Immigration Options

PLEASE NOTE ALL VISAS MUST CURRENTLY BE PROCESSED OUTSIDE OF AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ

- **Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)**
 - Eligibility



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- Employed directly by U.S. government in Afghanistan for at least 1 year OR employed with company that had a contract or subcontract with U.S. government (*employment less than 1 year or for company that had grant or cooperative agreement is NOT eligible for SIV > please see P-2 refugee*)
- Requires submission of letter of recommendation from direct U.S. Citizen supervisor
- Requires submission of HR letter confirming years of employment and evidence of employer's U.S. Government contract, if applicable.
- Must demonstrate ongoing threat to safety because of employment with U.S. government
- Steps
 - Chief of Mission (COM) application to verify qualifying employment (see travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/SIVs/Afghan_SIV_Guidelines_and_DS_157_Instructions_08-24-2021.pdf);
 - File I-360 petition with USCIS;
 - Complete DS-260 Visa Application;
 - Attend interview and complete security checks;
 - Visa issuance and travel to U.S. – eligible for refugee benefits.
- Family Members
 - Spouse and minor unmarried children may obtain SIV status as derivatives.
- Automatically become Lawful Permanent Resident upon entering U.S. in SIV status.
- **USRAP P-1 Refugee – Individual Referral**
 - Must be referred/submitted by UNHCR, embassy, or designated NGO
 - Lengthy, complex process with Department of State
 - Not much transparency to process
- **USRAP P-2 Refugee – Group Referral**
 - Eligibility
 - Employment for U.S. government-funded program or project supported through a U.S. government grant or cooperative agreement; U.S.-based



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- media organization or NGO (*employment with subcontractors or subgrantee is not eligible for P-2*)
 - Requires referral from senior-most U.S. citizen employee at qualifying employment
 - Must be referred/submitted by employer
 - Steps
 - Security checks;
 - Visa interview and pre-screening;
 - USCIS adjudication;
 - Travel to U.S. – no refugee assistance available.
 - Family Members
 - Spouse and children (whether married or unmarried) may obtain P-2 refugee status as derivative
 - Can apply for Adjustment of Status to become Lawful Permanent Resident 1 year after entering U.S. in P-2 Refugee status.
 - **Humanitarian Parole**
 - Eligibility
 - Must demonstrate urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit reason for beneficiary to be in the U.S.
 - Must have Financial Sponsor who is at least 18 years of age and either a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident in the U.S.
 - Steps
 - File Form I-131 Application for Travel Document and Form I-134 Affidavit of Support with USCIS;
 - USCIS Adjudication;
 - Complete DS-160 Visa Application;
 - Attend interview;
 - Advance Parole document issued and travel to U.S. – provides temporary status; no automatic refugee benefits.



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Potential Family-Based Immigration Options

- **Family Reunification for Refugee, Asylee or SIV in the U.S.**
 - **Follow to Join – I-730**
 - An individual currently in the U.S. who entered as Refugee or SIV or obtained Asylee status within last 2 years can petition on behalf of:
 - Spouse
 - Unmarried children
 - **USRAP P-3 Refugee**
 - An individual currently in the U.S. who entered as Refugee, Asylee, or SIV within last 5 years can petition on behalf of:
 - Spouse
 - Unmarried children
 - Parents
 - Family must be located outside of Afghanistan
- **Family-based Immigrant Visa**
 - Eligibility
 - Immediate relative of U.S. Citizen;
 - Spouse
 - Unmarried child under age 21
 - Parent
 - Other Relative of U.S. Citizen;
 - Unmarried child age 21+ of U.S. Citizen
 - Married child of U.S. Citizen
 - Brother or sister of U.S. Citizen
 - Family member of Lawful Permanent Resident
 - Spouse of LPR
 - Unmarried child under age 21
 - Unmarried child age 21+
 - Consular Processing Steps for Those Outside U.S.
 - File I-130 Immigrant Petition with USCIS
 - USCIS Adjudication



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- National Visa Center Processing
- Immigrant Visa Interview
- Visa Issuance

Potential Student and Employment-Based Visa Options:

A variety of student and employment-based visa options are available, and may offer much faster processing than the humanitarian options outlined above. Some of the most popular options include:

- **F-1 Student Visa**
 - Must be accepted for enrollment at an SEVP-approved school in the U.S.
- **H-1B Specialty Occupation**
 - Offer of U.S. employment which requires minimum of a bachelor's degree or equivalent in a related field;
 - Only immediately available to those who have been counted against the CAP in the last 6 years and has not been outside of the U.S. for more than 1 year OR to those whose offer of employment is from a cap-exempt organization.
- **L-1 Intracompany Transferee**
 - Offer of U.S. employment in a managerial or specialized knowledge role;
 - Employed for at least 1 year by a parent, subsidiary, or affiliate company abroad in a managerial or specialized knowledge role.



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General Resources About the Refugee Process

1. Infographic: The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2015/11/20/infographic-screening-process-refugee-entry-united-states?fbclid=IwAR1PopXIOcnKq6b0vEkbdfgdXrb5xjwYEjAVFiFqBc9QlaLgOXbZ0QbdPqc>
2. Figures at a Glance on Globally Displaced Population: <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html>
3. “Refugee Vetting 101”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVHdu4Br3Ds&t=1s> (1.5 min)
4. 5 min video “What does it mean to be a refugee?”: <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-refugee-benedetta-berti-and-evelien-borgman> (5 min)
5. Refugees need facts as well as food: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/04/13/refugees-greece-eu-turkey-camps-facts-column/82942244/?fbclid=IwAR0nCsEY1TdCHxAUxP3KSGnbE6gXIC1GPhEHDSY6LUood7bCXt8DaLfbmcM>