

Immigration Statuses Explained

REFUGEE

Someone forced to flee their home because of persecution, war or violence. The U.S. is one of 37 countries that resettles refugees who are selected and screened by the United Nations High Commission of Refugees (UNHCR).

President Trump set the 2018 limit for refugee resettlement at just 45,000 - the lowest ceiling in U.S. history.

ASYLEE

Asylum is a protection granted to people already in the United States or at the border who meet the international definition of “refugee.” It is unsafe for asylees to return to their home countries for fear of persecution.

SIV

Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) can be awarded to Iraqi and Afghan nationals who aided the U.S. government during its military involvement in those areas, and whose safety has subsequently been compromised.

Thanks in part to veteran advocacy groups, Congress authorized the creation of another 3,500 SIVs for 2018.

TPS

The Department of Homeland Security may give nationals of a certain country Temporary Protected Status (TPS) if they are already present in the U.S. and returning home could pose a threat to their safety.

President Trump recently ended TPS protections for over 250,000 Haitians, Nicaraguans and Salvadorans fleeing danger.

H-1B & H-2B

The H-1B and H-2B programs allow U.S. companies to temporarily hire foreign workers with particular skills when there aren't enough qualified American workers to fill those positions.