

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?

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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)

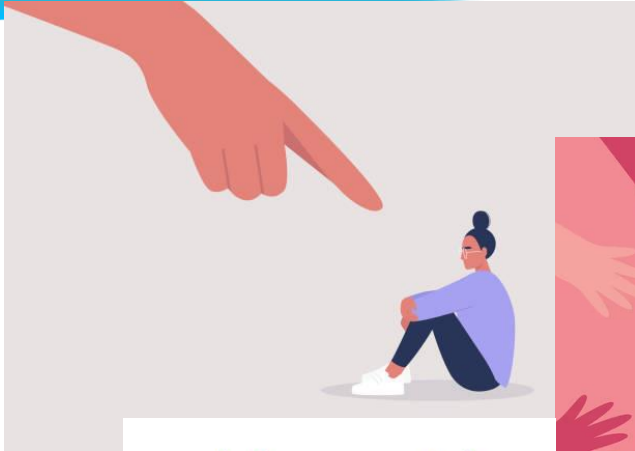
- A country may be designated for TPS for ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, extraordinary and temporary conditions, etc.
- For citizens of certain countries who have been present since a specific time AND registered for TPS (or can sometimes file late).
- TPS recipients can not be removed,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

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