



Infographic

Refugees & Asylum Seekers Explained

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Understand the difference between a refugee and asylum seeker with AAF's latest infographic.

[Read the entire primer here.](#)

REFUGEES



ASYLUM SEEKERS

THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS



Individuals **FLEEING** persecution

Applying from **OUTSIDE** of the U.S.

Applying from **WITHIN** the U.S.

Must fall under **ONE** priority category



PRIORITY 1

Referral by:
• United Nations
• U.S. Embassy
• Non-Gov Organization



PRIORITY 2

Special Humanitarian Concern



PRIORITY 3

Family Reunification

NOT in the process of deportation

CURRENTLY in the process of deportation



AFFIRMATIVE APPLICATION

Must apply through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (**USCIS**)
Department of Homeland Security



DEFENSIVE APPLICATION

Must apply through the Executive Office for Immigration Review
Department of Justice



INTERVIEW
TO PROVE THEIR ELIGIBILITY
Includes: biometric screening, criminal checks, and vetting



STATUS DETERMINED BY

USCIS Officer



APPROVED

Designated as refugee



DENIED

Not designated as refugee

AFFIRMATIVE
USCIS Officer



APPROVED

Granted asylum

DEFENSIVE
Immigration Court



DENIED

Removed from the United States

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Trump Administration is seeking measures to lower both the number of refugees and asylees seeking entry into the United States.



2018 ADMISSIONS CAP
45,000

LOWEST
cap since 1980



2018 REFUGEES ADMITTED
22,491

LOWEST
admitted since 1980



Currently blocked by the courts

TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER
Limits who is legally eligible to seek asylum



RECORD NUMBER OF APPLICANTS
Despite tighter proposed limits, the number of asylum applicants continues to grow.



Learn more at AmericanActionForum.org

