



**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



**AFFIRMATIVE**  
USCIS Officer



**DEFENSIVE**  
Immigration Court



**APPROVED**

Designated as refugee

**DENIED**

Not designated as refugee

**APPROVED**

Granted asylum

**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



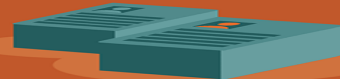
**2018 REFUGEES ADMITTED**  
**22,491**

**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](http://AmericanActionForum.org)

