



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

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

DEFENSIVE
Immigration Court

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

TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER
Limits who is legally eligible to seek asylum
Currently blocked by the courts

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

Learn more at AmericanActionForum.org