

# APPLYING FOR ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES



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## **Asylum Flow Chart**

## Preface

The purpose of this guide is to provide useful information on filing for asylum in the United States. The focus is on the requirements for eligibility and the asylum process. The information presented is an overview and does not attempt to deal exhaustively with any of the topics covered. For more specific information please schedule an appointment with us. We encourage you to visit our websites at:

- [www.USImmigrationTeam.com](http://www.USImmigrationTeam.com)
- [www.ImmigrationNewsRadio.com](http://www.ImmigrationNewsRadio.com)

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## Introduction

### Our Clients

Our asylum clients have fled violence, persecution, and civil wars around the world. Some have come to the United States legally with a visa, and then overstayed, but others have risked their lives traveling by boat on the high seas to U.S. shores or by making their way undetected across the Mexican or Canadian borders.

Their stories are both tragic and unbelievable at times to many Americans. Haitians tell of horrible beatings with guns, batons, and machetes, and of their family and friends being killed for expressing their political opinions. Colombians live in fear of the FARC guerilla group and flee their country in order to save their lives, many times leaving children behind; Venezuelans are “blacklisted” by Hugo Chavez’s regime; East Europeans are victims of human trafficking and prostitution rings; Kenyan women are subjected to female genital mutilation; Indonesians are targets of religious persecution; and El Salvadorians are menaced by gangs that the government is not able to control.

All of them have in common the goal to journey to America in order to have a better life for themselves, and hopefully, for their families in the future.

Not all of those arriving by visa have valid entry documents. Some have switched pictures on passports or have used someone else’s name. Some have had to use a tribal name in their home country rather than their legal name in order to receive a passport, and others have purchased fake documents from criminals and mafia-styled organizations. Those who travel across the Mexican border might pay a “coyote” to lead them through the desert and have no documentation at all.

If detected early on by immigration authorities, they may be turned back. But in other cases, they may be paroled into the United States and given notice to appear in court at a date to be determined. As can be expected, with no firm address to receive an exact date to appear in court, court dates are missed and orders of removal *in absentia*, that is, without them being present in court, are entered against them.

Those who make it into the U.S. without detection live in the shadows trying to survive, relying on immigrant communities for information. Refugees from certain countries are able to file asylum applications, providing a potential path to permanent residence. In most cases, an asylum applicant can obtain a work permit, social security number, and driver’s license while their case is pending. If asylum is granted, the asylee can file for lawful permanent residence after one year.

## Asylum Basics

### Applying for Asylum

Individuals who are physically present in the United States and have suffered or fear persecution based on their particular race, religion, nationality, political opinion or social group in their home country, can apply for asylum. Either a showing of past persecution or “well-founded fear of future persecution” will qualify the alien. Even if there is a fear of future persecution, the applicant must show he or she cannot avoid persecution by relocating to another part of the home country.

The application may be filed either before or after an alien has been sent a notice to appear in Immigration Court. If the application is filed before the notice, an interview will be scheduled before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) Asylum Office. Asylum may be granted by the Immigration Service or the case may be referred to the Immigration Court for a decision. In cases where the alien is in valid immigration status at the time of filing their asylum application, the agency may, if determined that the applicant has failed to prove their claim, deny the application—effectively foreclosing the opportunity to have the case heard in Immigration Court. If the alien has not filed an asylum application at the time he or she is placed in removal proceedings in Immigration Court, an application may be filed at that time.

The law requires the application be filed within 12 months of entering the United States, unless there are changed circumstances affecting eligibility for asylum or extraordinary circumstances explaining to the court’s satisfaction the reason for late filing. Even if filed late, the same asylum application, Form I-589, allows the applicant to also seek Withholding of Removal and protection under the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

A common mistake is for the alien to seek the assistance of a *notario* or non-lawyer offering immigration services to complete the applications. A notary public in the United States is not legally trained, as is a *notario* in Central and South America. In the Carribean, many non-lawyers who do not speak or write English well and know little about U.S. immigration law, meet refugees arriving in U.S. ports of entry such as St. John and St. Thomas offering to help them obtain work permits by filing an asylum application. Unfortunately, this may cause irreparable damage to the alien’s case.

It is critical that the alien obtain the services of a knowledgeable immigration attorney to assist with the application, and explain the process to be followed.

## **Definition of “Persecution”**

The term “persecution” means the infliction of suffering or harm upon those who differ, in a way that is regarded as offensive. For example, threats to life or freedom are uniformly found to be persecution. Physical abuse, even if not life-threatening, may also constitute persecution. Sometimes, an act against a person such as harassment may not by itself constitute persecution, but when viewed together with other actions may be sufficient to amount to persecution. For example, a refugee may be able to show constant surveillance, pressure to join a political party, denial of a passport, or denial of the opportunity to attend institutions of higher education in order to corroborate or support their claim of persecution.

It is not sufficient to show persecution simply for criminal reasons alone, for example if you were the victim of a crime. The persecution must be on account of one of five following factors: 1) race 2) religion 3) nationality 4) political opinion or 5) social group.

The persecution must be perpetrated by either the government or a group the government cannot or will not control.

## **Past Persecution**

If a person has suffered severe persecution, such as being shot or beaten severely enough to require medical treatment or hospitalization, the persecution may be deemed to have risen to the level of proof required for past persecution. This can have a substantial impact on the case because there is then a presumption of future persecution. The government will then have the obligation to rebut or oppose this presumption by showing that conditions in the home country have changed to the extent that the refugee could return without fear of future persecution.

## **Future Persecution**

If past persecution is not shown, the applicant for asylum must show a “well-founded fear” of persecution if he or she returns to their home country. To do this, the applicant must present persuasive, credible testimony, and evidence showing that a reasonable person in similar circumstances would experience a fear of being persecuted.

## **Internal Relocation**

In order to show a person could not live in another part of his or her home country and be safe from future persecution, the court will consider ongoing civil strife, the strength or weakness of government infrastructures, the geographical size of the country, and social or cultural constraints.

## **Firm Resettlement**

An individual is barred from receiving asylum if it is determined that the individual was “firmly resettled” in another country prior to arriving in the United States. For example, if a person has fled Bangladesh and lived in Indonesia for a period of time in which certain ties are established with that country, he or she may be determined as being “firmly resettled” in Indonesia. Likewise, if a person is offered permanent resident status, citizenship, or some other type of permanent resettlement, the individual will be considered to have “firmly resettled” in that country and barred from receiving asylum in the U.S.

If, on the other hand, the individual can show that entry into Indonesia was a necessary consequence of his or her flight from persecution, and that he or she remained only as long as necessary to arrange onward travel to the United States, then significant ties have not been established.

Although being “firmly resettled” will be a bar to asylum, it is not a bar to Withholding of Removal. To learn more about withholding of removal please see the chapter on Alternative Relief.

## **Bars to Eligibility for Asylum**

Some applicants are barred from eligibility for asylum. These include applicants who have persecuted others, who have previously filed for asylum and been denied, who have been convicted of certain serious crimes, or who pose a danger to the security of the United States.

A common problem in establishing eligibility for asylum is a late filing of the asylum application. An asylum applicant has only 12 months from the date of their last entry into the United States to file. Unless there is a showing of “changed or extraordinary circumstances” that led to the late filing, the applicant will not be eligible for asylum relief. However, this does not preclude an asylum application from being filed. The application may be filed for the relief of Withholding of Removal and protection under the United Nations Convention against Torture. And, other forms of relief may be available as well. For more details please read the chapter on Alternative Relief.

### **Tip**

Since eligibility for asylum is dependent on filing evidence within 12 months of entry into the United States, it is advisable to obtain documentation proving the date and place of entry. For example, you can submit cash receipts for rent or items purchased such as travel tickets, food or clothing. Ideally, the receipts should be dated and contain your name.

## The Asylum Process

### Filing the Asylum Application

An application for asylum, withholding of removal and protection under the Convention Against Torture may be filed affirmatively or defensively. In other words, if a person is not in removal proceedings in Immigration Court, an application may be filed affirmatively with the USCIS Asylum Office, but if a person is already in removal proceedings, the application must be filed defensively with the Immigration Court.

### Asylum Interview

For applicants filing affirmatively, an interview is scheduled with the Asylum Office. The officer asks questions to determine the truthfulness of the applicant's statement and whether or not the alleged persecution fulfills the requirements for eligibility for relief in the form of asylum, and related relief. If the applicant entered the U.S. lawfully and their status is still valid at the time of application, the asylum officer has the authority to deny the application. However, in all other cases where asylum is not granted, the case will be referred to the Immigration Court.

#### **Tip**

An interpreter is not provided by the government at this interview. Choose your interpreter carefully because the officer's notes and assessment will likely be available to a judge in the event your case is referred to court.

### Master Calendar Hearing

For those who have received a notice to go to court before filing an asylum application, called a Notice to Appear, and those who have been referred to Immigration Court, the first hearing is a Master Calendar hearing. This is a preliminary hearing in which the alien (referred to as the respondent) will plead to the allegations and to the charge of removal. For example, typical allegations are that the alien entered with some type of visa, but has overstayed the authorized time period granted to the alien to remain in the U.S., or that they have entered the U.S. without inspection. The court will also want to know which form(s) of relief the respondent is seeking.

Attendance at this hearing is required, and it is highly recommended that the alien attend with an immigration attorney. If the respondent appears without an attorney, the court will typically grant a continuance or postponement to allow time to retain an attorney. But be aware that any delay in the proceedings (such

as requesting or obtaining a continuance in favor of the respondent) may cause the respondent to be ineligible to obtain or renew their employment authorization. Failure to attend the hearing will result in an order of removal.

## **Individual Hearing**

The Individual Hearing is the final hearing and it is at this hearing that the alien testifies and presents evidence regarding his or her case. This is a formal administrative hearing before a judge. Witnesses are sworn and both the alien's attorney and the government attorney are given the opportunity to ask questions.

This is, in some cases, the third opportunity that the alien has to explain the reason for seeking asylum in the U.S. It is important to understand that the asylum application, statement before the asylum officer, and the testimony and evidence in court all need to be consistent.

## **Presenting Your Case**

### **Detailed Statement**

A statement detailing the persecution suffered by the alien in his or her home country is an essential part of the asylum application. Unfortunately, too many non-lawyers prepare many of the statements, and some go so far as to make up false stories. Then, when the asylum officer interviews the alien, the application is referred to Immigration Court because of material inconsistencies in their testimony before the officer and the asylum statement.

Besides being truthful, the statement must answer the "who, what, where, when, why and how" questions specifically. If the statement needs correcting due to errors or factual assertions made which are simply not true, it is important to correct the information at the earliest possible opportunity.

### **Documentary Evidence**

Since passage of the Real ID Act, asylum applications filed after May 11, 2005 must meet certain documentary evidence requirements. Although it is still possible to be granted asylum based solely on the testimony of the alien, an increased emphasis has been placed on presenting evidence such as police reports, newspaper articles, medical treatment, hospital records, letters, and affidavits supporting the claims of the alien.

Care should be taken to present accurate, detailed information to the court. Any foreign language documents must be translated into English and reviewed by the attorney well in advance of the hearing. Original and authenticated documents should be presented to your attorney for filing.

**Tip**

Read the documents prior to providing them to your lawyer. In particular, check for errors in names and dates. You will also be asked questions to authenticate the documentation, such as how and when you obtained the documents, and where were they kept before being filed in court.

**Biometrics**

For clients filing affirmatively, an appointment for fingerprints will be scheduled by the USCIS. If a person is in removal proceedings, a fingerprint notice will be provided by the Department of Homeland Security attorney at the Master Calendar hearing.

Fingerprint reports are valid for 15 months. In the event the Individual Hearing is delayed so that the fingerprints are older than 15 months, it is necessary to have the fingerprint report updated prior to the hearing date. Failure to do so may result in a dismissal of an application, or a delay in granting asylum.

**Translations**

In order to be filed, documents must be translated into English and should contain a certificate of translation indicating that the translator is competent in the language of the document and in English. While the translator may claim competency and experience in translations, there is no need to actually be “certified” as a translator. That said, it would be a serious mistake not to engage a well qualified translator. Otherwise, this may lead to inaccurate translations which may diminish the chances of being granted asylum.

**Helping your Lawyer****Creating an Organized File**

It is advisable to keep a copy of all of the documentation pertaining to an asylum case. This includes having a copy of the asylum application, Notice to Appear, Notices of Hearings, documentary evidence, certified mailing receipts, and any changes of address. All of this material should be well organized in a file in order to help your attorney to prepare your case.

**Communication with Your Attorney**

It is extremely important to stay in touch with your attorney. Court dates sometimes change and frequent communication is needed to prepare for the Individual Hearing. Also, it is required by law that a change of address be completed and delivered to the Immigration Court and Department of Homeland

Security within 10 days of moving. Failure to timely provide the notice of your change of address may lead to separate grounds for removal from the United States.

### **Diligent Attempt to Obtain Documents**

Every effort should be made to obtain true and accurate documents supporting the asylum case. Contact family and friends in your home country who might be able to help you. Although it may be costly and time consuming, having documentary evidence is vital to the case. It is imperative to avoid at all costs people who are in the business of providing false evidence for asylum cases.

### **Selecting an Attorney**

Immigration Law is a complex area of the law, and not all immigration attorneys are familiar with asylum cases. In selecting an attorney, determine the experience he or she has specifically in asylum cases, and then ask three essential questions: 1) How can you help me? 2) What is the cost? and 3) How long is this process going to take?

### **Appearance at Court**

It is important to be on time for any court appearance. This is especially true for the Individual Hearing, which is the only case scheduled in a particular courtroom. A judge may order you removed from the United States if you are late for the hearing. While, you may be able to justify being late in a Motion to Reopen, there is no guarantee you will be given a second chance.

Always dress appropriately for court. This is an important day in your life, and proper respect should be paid to the judge who has the responsibility of deciding your case.

If English is not your primary language a qualified translator will be provided by the court at no cost to you.

### **Winning your Asylum Case**

In the event you win your asylum case, you may apply for a new Employment Authorization Document (“EAD”) so that you have documentary proof of your asylee status. There is no filing fee for your initial EAD card as an asylee, but you must provide two recent passport-style photographs of yourself for the actual EAD card as well as a photocopy of a current picture identification. Most Walgreens, Kinko’s, and photo studios take these types of pictures for people.

While it is recommended that you obtain an EAD so that you have one form of proof of your asylee status, you are work-authorized regardless of whether or not you are in possession of an EAD.

Asylum does not convey a right in itself for you to remain permanently in the United States and may be terminated by the U.S. Attorney General. You could lose your asylee status if you *ever* travel back to your home country. Traveling back to your home country will be viewed as you no longer having a fear of being persecuted in your home country. You should *not* acquire a new passport from your home country or seek assistance from a consulate of your home country—doing so may result in the revocation of your asylee status. Other situations may also lead to losing the right to remain in the U.S., including being convicted of a crime, engaging in terrorist activities or posing a danger to the security of the United States.

As an asylee you are entitled to certain benefits that were previously unavailable to you:

- (1) An asylee is eligible to receive a variety of services under Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Such services include job search assistance, career counseling, and occupational skills training. These and other services are available at local One-Stop Career Centers. To obtain more information about One-Stop Career Centers, asylees may call 1-877-US2-JOBS. The information is also available on-line through America's Service Locator at <http://www.servicelocator.org>.
- (2) An asylee may be eligible to receive assistance and services through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). ORR funds and administers various programs, which are run by state and private non-profit agencies throughout the United States. The programs include cash and medical assistance, employment preparation, job placement, and English language training. Many of these programs have time-limited eligibility periods that begin from the date the asylee is granted asylum. An asylee can find out what programs are available and where to go for assistance and services in his or her state by calling 1-800-354-0365. The ORR website is <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/orr>.
- (3) An asylee is eligible to apply for federally funded food stamps. Go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp> for more information on food stamp eligibility requirements and applications.

- (4) An asylee may apply for lawful permanent resident status under section 209(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act after the asylee has been physically present in the United States for a period of one year after the date he or she was granted asylum status. To apply for lawful permanent residence status, the asylee must submit a separate Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, for himself or herself and each qualifying family member.
- (5) If an asylee plans to depart the United States, he or she must obtain permission to return to the United States before departure by obtaining a Refugee Travel Document. The asylee's qualifying family members, if any, will also have to obtain refugee travel documents before leaving the United States. A Refugee Travel Document may be used for temporary travel abroad and is required for readmission to the United States as an asylee. If an asylee does not obtain a Refugee Travel Document in advance of departure, he or she may be unable to reenter the United States, or the asylee may be placed in removal proceedings before an Immigration Judge.
- (6) An asylee also has certain responsibilities. These include the requirement to notify USCIS of any change in address within 10 days of any such change using Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card (<http://uscis.gov.graphics/formsfee/forms/ar-11.htm>).

## What Happens if Your Case is Denied?

### Appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals

The immigration judge may grant asylum or some other relief, but if relief is denied, the alien has 30 days from the date of the immigration judge's decision to file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals in Falls Church, Virginia. It is not necessary to appear in person before the board. Instead, the appeal is processed in two parts: the court is notified of the appeal. A transcription of the Individual Hearing will then be prepared, and the alien will be notified of a time for submission of a written legal brief explaining the reasons for the appeal.

#### **Tip**

The legal brief is a document stating the facts and points of law concerning your case. While a legal brief is not required, it is a vital part of the appeal process, and it is suggested that a brief be filed.

## **Appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals**

Most cases, if not successful before the Board of Immigration Appeals, end at this point due to the cost of the appeal and the strict requirements to be eligible for relief in federal court. However, some cases may warrant taking the next step to the Circuit Court of Appeals or even to the U.S. Supreme Court. The alien has a strictly enforced and limited time in which to file the proper paperwork to process the appeal.

## **Alternative Relief**

### **Withholding of Removal**

As discussed earlier, applicants may seek withholding of removal in cases where an asylum application is filed more than one year after the alien's last entry into the U.S. where no exceptions to the late filing bar are present. In addition, an application for withholding is typically made when an applicant is ineligible for asylum because he or she has committed certain crimes. In such cases the court will consider the nature of the crime, the surrounding circumstances, length of sentence, and whether the crime indicates the alien would be a danger to the community.

Even if a person qualifies for this form of relief, the refugee cannot later adjust status to lawful permanent residence as they would if they were granted asylum. Also, if conditions ever favorably change in their home country, the refugee may be required to return home.

The standard of proof required for the granting of withholding of removal is actually higher than it is for the granting of asylum. Instead of merely showing a well-founded fear of persecution, the application must show a clear probability of persecution by the government or a group the government cannot or will not control. Of course, proving past persecution will, as with asylum, result in a presumption of a well-founded fear of persecution.

### **Convention Against Torture**

The United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment prohibits the return of a person to another country where there are grounds to believe that the person would be in danger of torture if returned.

There are two types of protection. One is withholding under the Convention, which can be terminated only if the case is reopened and the government establishes that the individual is no longer likely to be tortured. The second type of protection under the Convention is deferral of removal. This is for people who

are ineligible for withholding of removal such as terrorists, certain criminals or those who have persecuted others. Protection under the Convention can be more easily terminated if it can be established the alien is no longer likely to be tortured. As with Withholding of Removal (not under the Convention), the alien cannot adjust status to obtain permanent residence or a green card.

### **Voluntary Departure**

In the event there is no other relief, or in special circumstances where a U.S. citizen spouse has filed a family petition and the beneficiary (“respondent” as they are called in immigration court proceedings) has received an approval of the petition, voluntary departure, as a form of relief, may be advisable. If the individual leaves the U.S. within the time ordered by the court, there may be no bar to reentry at a later date.

This form of relief is discretionary with the court, and must be used very carefully. It is not available if certain crimes have been committed or if a person has already taken voluntary departure but failed to depart. Additionally, if a person has remained unlawfully present in the U.S. without authority for a period of time, a 3 or 10 year bar to their returning to the U.S. may be imposed. Although the individual may request a waiver for their unlawful presence, there is no assurance it will be granted. In that case, it could take 3 years or 10 years before the person is permitted to reenter the U.S. depending on the length of unlawful presence.

For those who truly have a fear of returning to their home country, it is possible in some cases to travel to another country such as Canada, and wait for permission to reenter the U.S. This requires advance planning and legal advice should be sought prior to taking voluntary departure.

#### **Tip**

In limited situations, a motion to reopen may be filed even after a judge grants voluntary departure.

### **Marriage to a U.S. Citizen**

A common misconception is that marriage to a U.S. citizen will automatically qualify someone for a green card. It is true in some cases, but not others. How a person comes to the U.S., and whether or not a person has been or is currently in immigration court proceedings can affect their eligibility.

### **Adjustment of Status**

Generally, to qualify for adjustment, a person must enter the U.S. by visa, be “paroled” into the United States or be named a beneficiary in an approvable petition or application to the USCIS prior to April 30, 2001. If an order of removal

has already been entered, then the case must be reopened before asking for a review of the application for permanent status. On the other hand, if a final decision has not been reached by the court, it is possible to have a case terminated in order for the USCIS to consider the application. Or, a request can be made for the court to adjudicate the application.

### **Temporary Protected Status**

The U.S. Attorney General may grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to individuals whose home countries are too dangerous to return to, provided the alien is physically present in the U.S. on or before the date the designation is made. TPS status may be renewed for a particular country if conditions remain unsafe.

Once TPS is granted, which is normally for 6 to 18 months, the alien is allowed to work and is protected from deportation during this period.

The government website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) provides updates on the countries with TPS status. Some of the countries which have been granted this designation in the past are El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Somalia. Efforts have been ongoing to provide this protection to aliens from Haiti.

### **The Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (HRIFA)**

HRIFA, which took effect June 11, 1999, provides immigration benefits and relief from deportation to certain Haitian nationals. HRIFA allows eligible Haitians to obtain lawful permanent residence status—the right to live and work in the United States permanently—without applying for an immigrant visa at a U.S. consular office overseas, and waives many of the usual requirements for this benefit.

To be eligible for these benefits, Haitians must belong to one of the five classes specified in section 902(b) of HRIFA; must have been physically present in the United States on December 31, 1995; must have remained continuously physically present in the United States since December 31, 1995; and must not be inadmissible to the United States under any grounds of inadmissibility for which HRIFA does not specifically provide an exception. Certain Haitian dependents are also eligible.

### **The Cuban Adjustment Act**

Passed into law on November 2, 1966, the Cuban Adjustment Act contains provisions to change the legal status of the Cuban immigrants; to treat them as political refugees and to grant them political asylum; and as such provide them immediately with privileges that no other group enjoys, such as, automatic permanent residence status—all without review and without the usual waiting time.

Cuban illegal immigrants are afforded the opportunity, to work legally, and to receive welfare, unemployment benefits, and free medical care.

**Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000**

Congress created two new categories of nonimmigrant visas in this Act, the "U" and "T" visas. An alternative for relief may therefore be available for asylum applicants and other respondents in removal proceedings provided they meet eligibility requirements.

**The U Visa**

The U visa, is available to aliens who are:

- 1) Victims of Certain Criminal Activities, Occurring in the United States, (Includes Indian Country, Military Installations, and U.S. Territories and Possessions) and;
- 2) Possess Information About the Criminal Activity and;
- 3) Have Been, Are Being or Will Likely Be Helpful in the Prosecution or Investigation of the Criminal Activity.

**List of U Visa Qualifying Criminal Activites**

Rape Torture Trafficking Incest Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Abusive Sexual Contact	Prostitution Sexual Exploitation Female Genital Mutilation Hostage Holding Peonage Involuntary Servitude Slave Trade	Kidnapping Abduction Unlawful Restraint False Imprisonment Blackmail Extortion Manslaughter	Murder Felonious Assault Witness Tampering Obstruction of Justice Perjury Attempt, Conspiracy or Solicitation to Commit One of These Activities
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**Tip**  
Even if the information you are able to supply about the criminal activity does not actually lead to an arrest or prosecution, you may still be eligible for relief.

**The T Visa**

T visas are available to individuals who are victims of "a severe form of trafficking in persons." Severe forms of trafficking include sex trafficking of persons under 18 years of age, or recruiting or obtaining persons for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion "for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery."

If you feel you meet the eligibility requirements for a T or U visa, please let your attorney know right away.

## Asylum Flow Chart

