



Journey Of A Refugee

Refugee Flees

Due to a well-founded fear of persecution, a refugee flees his or her country of origin. After this, one of three things will happen:

1. Local Integration

Refugee stays in the country to which they fled.

2. Voluntary Repatriation

Refugee is sent back to his or her home country.

3. Resettlement

Refugee is sent to a third country to be resettled. Less than 1% of refugees are given this option.



Resettlement Process

US DEPARTMENT OF STATE MIGRATION PROCESSING

Refugee is interviewed by US Department of Homeland Security officials to determine if he or she is eligible for resettlement. Once he or she is approved, the resettlement and placement process begins:

1. ALLOCATED TO VOLAG
Refugee is assigned to one of the 10 voluntary agencies (VOLAGs) for resettlement.

2. ALLOCATED TO RESETTLEMENT SITE
Refugee is assigned to a specific agency in a US city.

3. REFUGEE NOTIFIED OF U.S. RESETTLEMENT SITE
Refugee prepares to enter last stage of processing before arrival in US: medical examination, processing, other clearance checks. If there are medical complications, they are put on medical hold.



Preparation and Arrival

1. PROCESSING COMPLETE
Flight Booked. Resettlement agency notified of the date of arrival, usually 1-2 weeks in advance.

2. RESETTLEMENT AGENCY PREPARES FOR ARRIVAL
Caseworker and volunteers assigned to the case; arrangements made for housing, furniture, and food.

3. REFUGEE ARRIVES IN U.S. RESETTLEMENT CITY
Caseworkers and/or sponsor family meet the refugee or family at the airport and take them to their new home.

Learn More About Refugee Populations here:

Bhutanese | Burmese | Kurdish & Special Immigrant Visas